

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CANBER 00418 170710Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-05 /118 W
-----027871 170714Z /21

R 170551Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2180

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 0418

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG, AS
SUBJECT: WORLD NATURAL URANIUM MARKET

REF: (A) STATE 007629, (B) 77 CANBERRA A-107,
(C) 77 CANBERRA 08053, (D) 77 CANBERRA 04224,
(E) 77 CANBERRA 03063, (F) 77 CANBERRA 02530

1. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL A ARE AS FOLLOWS.

2. PARA 2 JAPANESE UTILITIES HAVE BEEN PRINCIPAL PURCHASERS OF AUSTRALIAN URANIUM. AUSTRALIAN URANIUM COMES FROM MARY KATHLEEN MINE, IN WHICH GOA IS MAJOR STOCKHOLDER, OR FROM AAEC STOCKPILE AT LUCAS HEIGHTS. GOA CONTROLS URANIUM EXPORTS AND PRICES ARE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN GOA AND CUSTOMER. GOA IS TO FORM URANIUM ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON ALL ASPECTS OF URANIUM MARKETING.

3. PARA 3 - NA. AUSTRALIA IS A NET EXPORTER.

4. PARA 4 - DEPARTMENT ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT.

5. PARA 5 - AUSTRALIAN URANIUM SALES CONTRACTS ALL WERE
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NEOGITATED IN EARLY 1970'S. NO SPOT SALES ARE MADE AT THIS TIME.

6. PARA 6 - AUSTRALIAN YELLOWCAKE STOCKPILE OF AAEC TOTALED APPROXIMATELY 2200 SHORT TONS AT BEGINNING OF LAST YEAR. AS DISCUSSED REFTELS D, E, AND F, THIS URANIUM IS BEING RELEASED TO MAKE UP SHORTFALLS IN PRODUCTION FOR

EXISTING CONTRACTS. DEPT. OF TRADE AND RESOURCES IN
CANBERRA DOES NOT HAVE CURRENT STOCKPILE FIGURE AT HAND AND
REGARDS IT AS PROBABLY CLASSIFIED IN ANY CASE. INASMUCH AS
SHIPMENTS APPROXIMATING 600 TONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED
PUBLICLY, STOCKPILE IS NO LARGER THAN 1600 TONS AND MAY BE
SMALLER.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON AUSTRALIAN MARKETING OF
URANIUM IS CONTAINED IN REFTELS B AND C.
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, MARKETS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780157/aaaabvli.tel
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Litigation History:
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